

Dear Ms. Farahnak and Ms. Billington,

RE: IRWM Program – Second Cycle Funding

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, representing over 1000 members in the Bay area, predominantly in Marin County. We are a participating member of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, a coalition of 30 groups, agencies and individuals. The TBWC is a recipient of a \$469,000 planning grant for preparation of an ICWMP (grant # 05-227-550-0).

Providing funding for the Tomales Bay watershed benefits not only local residents but the millions of people who visit the Point Reyes area and the National Seashore each year. Tomales Bay is also vitally important for threatened species such as coho salmon and steelhead. Please ensure that funding is still available for needed projects to restore Tomales Bay's valuable resources.

We entered into the planning grant process with the expectation that preparation of the Plan would position us to apply for Phase 2 Implementation funds to accomplish needed, prioritized projects within the watershed. Our group has invested 100's of hours in pursuit of our final plan, which is well on the way towards completion and adoption by June of 2007. I have just learned of several important decisions that will be made in the next few months concerning future funding for the Prop 50 program and wish to make the following comments:

1. Please reserve funding for the second cycle of implementation grants for the Prop 50 program.
2. Please do not narrow the funding consideration for the next cycle of Phase 2 Implementation Funding only to the groups that have already submitted Phase 1 Implementation Grant applications for their adopted RWMP's. This would exclude groups that are currently in the planning grant cycle from any further Prop 50 funding opportunities.
3. Please allocate a portion of the second cycle of Phase 2 Implementation funds to the unique and relatively small group of planning grants that cover ICWMP's. This would enable these regions to apply for implementation funds for prioritized projects identified in their soon to be adopted ICWMP's.

Thank-you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (415) 663-9312 for any additional information or to talk further about the ecological importance of the Tomales Bay watershed to the region and the state of California.

Frederick Smith, Jr.

Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin